Mr. V. K. Aravindaksha Menon.—We are pretty sure of that. But we cannot entrust a work of this nature to those whom we do not know; only approved contractors of Cochin whom we know had any chance in the matter.

President.—We have long experience in the department; we know the contractors, and so we can pick and choose our men.

Mr. T. A. Ramachandra Ayyar.—How can fresh contractors have a chance then?

President.—We take only experienced contractors. First, we try them in small things, and then we give them big works. Fresh contractors are not entrusted with responsible works all on a sudden.

Contracts and tenders of the P. W. D.

5. **Mr. T. A. Ramachandra Ayyar.**—Will the Government be pleased to state the number of contracts during the past 3 years wherein the lowest of the tenders were not accepted along with the names and rates of such tenders the rates of the accepted tenders;

and the loss to the Government apparently visible by not accepting the lowest tenders?

Mr. V. K. Aravindaksha Menon.—It is not found possible to prepare the exhaustive list asked for, on account of the enormous number of contracts entered into during the last three years. If any work or group of works is specified, the details regarding their tenders will be looked into and furnished.

Mr. T. A. Ramachandra Ayyar.—"It is not possible to prepare the exhaustive list asked for." Will they be pleased to do it at least for one year?

President.—Why do you want us to do this laborious work?

Mr. T. A. Ramachandra Ayyar.—It is only for one year.

President.—If you have got reasonable grounds to show that, in respect of a particular work, the Government did not play an honourable part, put them forward, and we shall explain them to you. First, get a list, and then pick out a work. You must have some ground to think that the Government have not been altogether playing a proper part in regard to these contracts. There must be specific instances before you. Place them before us. Let us see whether we shall be able to give an answer.

Mr. T. A. Ramachandra Ayyar.—From the list submitted, I understand that works above Rs. 20,000 for which tenders were not called for, are entrusted to one contractor only, with a solitary exception. If only I am furnished with an

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exhaustive list, I can understand whether there are such exceptions or not; without the list, how can I understand that there are so many contracts?

President.—He asks now that he may be supplied with a list for one year.

Mr. V. K. Aravindaksha Menon.—We give three thousand or four thousand contracts in one year. To prepare an exhaustive list for even one year is very difficult.

The Trichur Central Co-operative Bank.

6. Dr. A. G. Menon.—Will the Government be pleased to state:—

(a) whether the Secretary is in the sole charge of the finance of the institutions;

(b) what is the monthly balance on an average for the years 1100 and 1101;

(c) where the balances are deposited;

(d) whether the Secretary has furnished any security; if so, for what amounts; if not, why not;

(e) whether the Co-operative Bank money is lent to other institutions other than the Co-operative ones; if so, the amount so lent, with the names of such institutions;

(f) the names of the Directors of the Bank for 1098, 1099, 1100 and 1101;

(g) is it a fact that some of the Directors of this Bank are also Directors of other private Banks; if so, (a) the names of those Directors, (b) in which all Banks?

Mr. A. K. Vengu Ayyar.—(a) No.

(b) Please see statement appended (*Vide Appendix II A.*)

(c) In the State Treasury and in select Co-operative Societies or Joint Stock Banks.

(d) No. The matter is under consideration.

(e) No loans have been given; but deposits and investments have been made.

(f) Please see *Appendix II B.*

(g) The information is being collected.

Dr. A. R. Menon and Honorary Surgeonship.

7. Mr. C. A. Kunjunni Raja.—The Chief Medical and Sanitary Officer wanted notice to state what are the conditions which are not acceptable to the Government in the offer made by Dr. A. R. Menon in the letter referred to as Appendix II, question No. 298 of the legislative session of 1101, when he placed his services at the disposal of the Government to work as an Honorary Surgeon in the Trichur Maternity Hospital; will the Government be pleased to state what are those conditions not acceptable?

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